



Post Office Box 758 • Port Neches, Texas 77651

November 13, 2000

FMKSA-97-2350-22207

Docket Clerk, US DOT Dockets
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently the U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed rules that cause me great concern for the safety of my fellow citizens. As the mayor of Port Neches, Texas, I am responsible for the safety of the residents in my community. And as drafted, the USDOT rules would restrict the hours that utility company service drivers can operate during an emergency.

I believe utility workers should get the same exemptions the department proposes for police and firefighters. In our town, utility workers are a vital key to meeting the needs of our emergency services. The men and women of our power company protect our homes from power outages, keep our children safe when an accident downs power lines and allows the fire department to quickly contain and control fires.

Several years ago when a devastating ice storm struck southeast Texas, many citizens lost power and were in danger of suffering from extreme cold and financial losses. This emergency truly endangered the lives of children, the elderly and the sick. It was the utility employees who worked day and night to restore the power and heat to our homes.

To restrict the hours of operations for utilities is a grave mistake. I urge the USDOT to exempt utility workers as it exempts other necessary emergency personnel.

Sincerely,

Frances Monk

Frances Monk
Mayor

SW

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